IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE DIVISION CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:16-CV-020-GCM-DCK

SABRINA D. STRANGE,)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	<u>ORDER</u>
CAROLYN W. COLVIN,)	
Acting Commissioner of Social Security,)	
Defendant.)	
)	

THIS MATTER IS BEFORE THE COURT on Plaintiff's "Motion For Fees Under The Equal Access To Justice Act 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A)" (Document No. 16) filed September 20, 2016, and "Defendant's Response To Plaintiff's Motion For Attorney's Fees" (Document No. 18) filed September 29, 2016. This motion has been referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b), and immediate review is appropriate. Having carefully considered the motion and the record, and noting Defendant does not object, the undersigned will grant the motion.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that Plaintiff's "Motion For Fees Under The Equal Access To Justice Act 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A)" (Document No. 16) is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Plaintiff's Motion for Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A) is **GRANTED** to the extent that the Court will award attorney fees in the amount of \$4,731.08, and that pursuant to <u>Astrue v. Ratliff</u>, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), the fee award will first be subject to offset of any debt Plaintiff may owe to the United States. The Commissioner will determine whether Plaintiff owes a debt to the United States. If so, the debt will be satisfied first, and if any funds remain, they will be made payable to Plaintiff

and mailed to Plaintiff's counsel. If the United States Department of the Treasury reports to the Commissioner that the Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, the Government will exercise its discretion and honor an assignment of EAJA fees, and pay the awarded fees directly to Plaintiff's counsel. See (Document No. 16-1). No additional petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) shall be filed.

SO ORDERED.

Signed: September 29, 2016

David C. Keesler

United States Magistrate Judge